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FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VI, No. 7 April 1, 1946 68 Price 5 Cents

NLRB Slaps Down Exclusive B... With T...rs

San Francisco, Calif.—Pe... new election in 81 Northern California canneries by the NLRB, ...ed on March 20 that it will issue complaints against any company gra... exclusive bargaining rights to any union.

Charges have been filed by FTA to the effect that several companies have recently signed exclusive bargaining contracts with the AFL Teamsters in violation of the recent NLRB order forbidding such agreements.

In announcing the Regional Board had been authorized to take action against such canneries, the Board stated:

"It is clear that the Board cannot conduct an election under conditions which will afford the employees genuine freedom if exclusive contracts, reported to include closed shop provisions, are made with either of the two contesting labor organizations before new elections can be held.

"The charges allege that one of the parties to the dispute has insisted on using its economic power to force certain employers to disregard their obligations under the law. The Board believes that a proper respect for the purpose of the National Labor Relations Act requires that we proceed immediately to determine whether these allegations are true."

Solid CIO Support

Meanwhile a letter from CIO President Philip Murray to Morris Zusman, President of the California CIO, commended the full support which California CIO unions unions have been giving FTA in its organizing campaign in the canneries.

Murray urged "that this support be continued in full and that every effort be made to make certain that the employees of the Northern and Central canneries be protected desire to be affiliated with the CIO union (FTA)."

Spirited demonstrations of cannery workers have taken place in Modesto, Stockton, Oakland, Sacramento and Sunnyvale calling upon the Teamsters to stop their blockade.

FTA Strikers Framed In Ark.

By Frank Hargrove, Regional Director

Little Rock, Ark.—The scab who murdered a striker is free. But three strikers, who were guilty of no greater crime than walking on a picket line, were sentenced to one year in the State penitentiary by a hand-picked Grand Jury.

The guilty verdict was handed down in the Second Division of the Circuit Court here March 19 against Roy Cole, Louis Jones and Jesse Bean who were indicted under Act 193, the Arkansas so-called "Anti-Violence" Law. The defendents are members of FTA Local 98, on strike at the Southern Cotton Oil Co. The other three strikers who were indicted under Act 193 will be tried at the next term of Court.

FTA will appeal the Circuit Court's verdict, it was announced by the Southern Cotton Oil Company Strikers Defense Committee.

Even the Arkansas Gazette, local anti-labor newspaper, observed that the prosecution was hard-pressed to make a case until Judge Lawrence C. Auten instructed the jury that the pickets could be found guilty if they aided or assisted, or just stood idly by while violence occurred in connection with the strike.

It was shown through testimony that the defendent pickets were two blocks away when Walter Campbell, Union member, was murdered by Otha Williams, scab.

The Gazette ironically observed that "Campbell was not on trial because the beleaguered Williams opened a knife with his teeth and killed his assailant." The murderer was exonerated by the same jury that convicted the pickets.

In Arkansas the presiding judge appoints the person who will select the jury in a criminal case. In this case the judge appointed Mark Valentine who, after selecting the jury, signed an ad in Arkansas and Tennessee newspapers pledging "active and unrelenting aid in the legal prosecution of these men."

Six members of the jury were people whose names appeared in a published open letter to President Truman demanding repeal of the National Labor Relations Act. The other six were Little Rock business

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Agricultural And Food Workers Need Social Security Benefits

Washington, D.C.—Coverage under federal social security laws of agricultural workers and many workers processing agricultural products was urged by FTA Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly before the House Ways Ways and Means Committee March 8 .

The exemption of these workers under the present law, the House Committee was told, works a hardship on the workers involved and gives "a group of industrial operators masquerading as farmers . . . special advantages over other industrialists."

Mrs. Sasuly's testimony was followed by that of Mrs. Bernice Hughes, fruit packer from Texas, representing the Texas CIO Council. Mrs. Hughes has worked for 15 years in a packing shed and has been excluded from Social Security benefits since 1939. She is a member of FTA Local 35.

"My mother is 61, and has been packing for 10 years," she told the Committee. "She works seasonally, and naturally hasn't saved anything. She doesn't get unemployment compensation or old age insurance, either."

Mrs. Sasuly testified in support of legislation to extend social security benefits to all workers, including agricultural employees.

"The FTA-CIO urges extension of coverage to all excluded workers, the self-employed, and to farmers," she said, pointing out that food processing workers as well as agricultural workers had been excluded by amendments to the Social Security Act passed in 1939.

"Agricultural workers not only grow old but they approach old age after having spent their lives earning the lowest annual income of any major occupational group in the country," she said.

"It is an obvious injustice that those who have the greatest need should be barred from participating in a system which we have recognized is designed to provide a minimum of basic security for the American people.

"In this, our country has lagged behind Great Britain, France, New Zealand, Sweden and others which provide old age benefits for agricultural laborers.

"If the exclusion of agricultural workers proper is discriminatory, the exclusion of industrial food processing workers by labelling them "agricultural" is even worse."

Mrs. Sasuly reminded the Ways and Means Committee that both the Democratic and Republican party were on record for extension of social security to all presently uncovered workers.

She further pointed out that exclusion of agricultural workers from all benefits "contributes to the undesirability of agricultural work and therefore to the continuance of shortages of agricultural labor."

BERNICE HUGHES Testifying in Congress

UP FROM MISERY

FROM WASHINGTON

Time To Change Congress

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Washington Representative

A NUMBER of FTA delegations have come to Washington during the past few weeks. They came for the 65-75c minimum wage bill, on social security legislation, and to meet with other unions to protest the anti-Negro terror in Columbia, Tenn.

I think it would be fair to say that all these delegations, whether their Congressmen or Senators were good or bad, finished their visits convinced of two things:

- It is absolutely necessary to let your Congressman and Senators know what the people in their district or state think on important bills—by visits and by individual letters. (Not just one letter from a local union, but letters from individual members, giving their names and addresses.)
- The membership of Congress must be improved in the 1946 elections. All Congressmen are up for election, and one-third of the Senators.

There is only one way to change the membership of Congress. That is by organizing, registering and voting. In 1944 we made some improvements. For example, in Philadelphia four good Congressmen were put in to replace four bad ones. In California six were added and the previous good ones kept. In all, we increased the good members of Congress by more than two dozen.

But there are 435 members of Congress. This was the first campaign CIO-PAC took on, and it was a good start at making labor's strength felt politically. But it was only a beginning, as the record of this 79th Congress proves.

The time has come to add the score and say plainly that this Congress is going to produce as little good legislation as it can get away with, and as much bad legislation as it can put across.

The only solution is to CHANGE CONGRESS by removing as many of the bad members as possible and replacing them with decent men and women.

The time to start thinking about this is NOW. In most states there is considerable time left in which to get registration campaigns under way, but they must be planned immediately.

The first step is to have a functioning PAC Committee made up of the most active leaders of your local. This committee should cooperate with your city or state CIO Council to make specific registration plans.

Plans should also be discussed at your next FTA Regional Council meeting. It is impossible to give you a general recipe from Washington to meet the situation in your town or city, but if you have no CIO Council and need special assistance, write to the Washington office, and we will be glad to help.

More suggestions for PAC work will follow in future columns.

Tell It To Congress

HERE are some of the key issues in Congress upon which the welfare of the country depends. Every FTA local and member should pitch into the fight by taking the following action:

65-75c Minimum Wage Bill (S 1349)

Debate on bill is bogging down because supporters are not fighting hard enough, while opponents are ready to move on phony "compromise" to knife food processing workers.

ACTION: Wire your Senators (individual wires from members needed) to fight and speak for bill. Just support is not enough.

Case Bill and All Anti-Labor Legislation

Senate Education and Labor Committee reported bill with amendment which would make strikes in canneries a misdemeanor punishable by $2,000 fine and 1 year in jail or both. Aimed at California Teamsters, but would affect any bona fide strike by cannery workers equally. More anti-labor amendments will be made on Senate floor.

ACTION: Every member write your Senators to fight and vote against these bills.

Price Control (HR 5270)

House Banking and Currency Committee continuing to give NAM and other inflationists endless time to fight price control. Labor supporters haven't been given a hearing yet.

ACTION: Write your Congressman to fight and vote for extension of price control for 1 year with no crippling amendments.

Atomic Energy

House Military Affairs Committee has asked priority for fascist May-Johnson Bill which gives control to Army. Senate Committee adopted Vandenberg amendment to good McMahon Bill. Henry Wallace called this amendment "military fascism." Bills will be up in House and Senate in very near future.

ACTION: Write your Congressman to oppose May-Johnson Bill. Write your 2 Senators to oppose Vandenberg amendment.

HERE ARE YOUR FACTS

Know Your Enemies

By JOSEPH CALIFF, Research Director

A LIFE-AND-DEATH struggle is going on in the United States Senate over the Pepper 65c-75c Minimum Wage Bill. The bosses are lined up solid against the bill and their lobbyists are working overtime to see that it doesn't pass.

Carrying the ball in this fight for sweatshop wages are the food processing industries, whose lobbyists have been the most numerous and most active against the bill. They are fighting not only the 65c-75c minimum wage, which would mean higher wages for more than 500,000 food and tobacco workers, but especially the overtime provisions which would give time-and-a-half pay after 40 hours a week to one million of these workers for the first time.

Here are some of the many food industry organizations which opposed the Bill before the Senate and House Labor Committees last fall:

Agricultural Producers' Labor Committee. This outfit is the spearhead of the drive to deny the minimum wage and overtime benefits to packing shed, cannery and other food workers. It claims to represent 98% of the California-Arizona citrus industry as well as a large part of the vegetable packing sheds.

This Committee was set up in 1937 as a front for the fascist Associated Farmers and other anti-labor employer groups in California for the specific purpose of preventing packing shed workers from obtaining collective bargaining rights under the Wagner National Labor Relations Act. Since then it has taken the lead in all the many efforts to weaken the Wagner Act, Social Security Act and Wage and Hour Act.

Here is what the LaFollette Committee of the U. S. Senate said about this organization:

"The Agricultural Producers' Labor Committee is the lobbying arm of California's 'industrialized agriculture.' Parading as the spokesman for the 'farmer,' it pleads that the unprotected liberties of the disadvantaged thousands of laborers in California's 'industrialized agriculture' be left to the mercies of the Associated Farmers . . .

"In effect, it seemed that the groups behind the Agricultural Producers Labor Committee desired exemption from the (Wagner) act so that they might be free to interfere with, restrain, and coerce employees in the exercise of their right to self-organize, to discourage membership in the union by discharging, refusing to reinstate, and otherwise discriminating against union members with the purpose of preventing unionization."

National Canners Association. This is the national union of cannery companies. It represents over 1,000 canners in 44 states who produce 90% of all canned foods. Forty-two state and regional canners associations are also affiliated to it. The NCA has always opposed minimum wage and overtime for cannery workers and has taken part in all the campaigns against the Wage and Hour Act.

National League of Wholesale Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Distributors. Claims to represent more than a thousand packers in 35 states who handle 65% to 70% of all fresh fruit and vegetables. It has also been active in all attacks upon the Wage and Hour Act.

National Cottonseed Products Association. Represents 371 of the 394 cottonseed crushing mills of the country.

National Cotton Compress and Cotton Warehouse Association. Represents about 600 compress and warehouse companies.

Grain and Feed Dealers National Association. A federation of 28 grain elevator and feed mill associations plus 1,000 direct employer members.

Dairy Industry Committee. Speaks for five national associations of manufacturers of butter, cheese, evaporated milk and other dairy products.

International Apple Association. Includes apple and pear packers in all important growing sections of the country.

A few of the others, some of which will be familiar to FTA members, include: Alaska Salmon Industry, California Fish Canners Association, California Sardine Products Institute, General Seafoods Corp. (subsidiary of the multi-million dollar General Foods Corp.), Michigan Bean Shippers Association, National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation.

Also present among the anti-minimum wage lobbyists, as would be expected, is the reactionary National Association of Manufacturers, which boasts that its members employ four out of five manufacturing workers in the country.

The moral of this story is plain. The bosses know their own interests and know the value of organizing to get what they want. They stick together when it comes to fighting labor and opposing laws for the protection of workers and the general public. The only way workers can beat such powerful opposition is by themselves joining together in strong, solid unions to protect and improve their own welfare.

FTA Strikers Framed In Arkansas

(Continued from page 1)

men. Not one worker on the jury. Not one Negro on the jury—although all six of the defendents were Negroes.

Motions to quash the indictments were overruled by the judge without reading them. These motions included protests to the fact that there were no Negroes on the jury in accordance with the law; that the indictment carried excessive penalties in violation of rights guaranteed under the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U. S. Constitution; and on the grounds that Act 193 constitutes class legislation against a labor class and does not cover others for similar offenses.

Appeal bond was fixed at $2,500 each. The usual bond in such cases is $1,000.

"There can be no doubt that we will win this case upon appeal to the Arkansas Supreme Court or the U. S. Supreme Court," Lindsey Walden, General Counsel for the CIO Oil Workers Union who is assisting in the case, said. "Labor has been the victim of fixed juries before, and we have been able to set the verdict aside. I have never before tried a case where a judge and jury were so prejudiced and committed so many reversible errors." Little Rock lawyers defending the pickets were Elmer Schoggen and Ross Robley.

The Strikers Defense Committee, at 119 Glover Building, Little Rock, is conducting a campaign to raise funds for the necessary appeals.

A conference held by local CIO representatives following the Circuit Court verdict agreed to intensify organizational activity in Arkansas in answer to the labor-baiters.

Henderson Letter To Truman Outlines Program To Meet Food Crisis Abroad

Washington, D. C.—Criticizing the appointment of Herbert Hoover as honorary chairman of the Famine Emergency Committee and the inadequate measures taken by President Truman to meet the growing food crisis, Pres. Donald Henderson in a letter to Truman offered the following proposals to make more food available:

- Increased production of cereals, oils and fats;
- Rationing of oils and fats, as well as increased government set asides of these and other needed foods;
- Renewal of price control without crippling amendments, and the continuation of subsidies.

Henderson's letter to the President said:

"You have called the attention of the American people to the desperate need for food among the allied and liberated countries of Europe and Asia. There is no question that without our full and immediate aid, scores of millions of men, women and children will die of starvation within the next few weeks and months. The American people have shown in numerous polls and by other means that they appreciate the need and that they are prepared to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to meet it.

"As the representative union of the food workers of this country, the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers, CIO, calls your attention, and the attention of your Famine Emergency Committee, to the following essential points for an effective program of feeding starvation areas abroad:

"There should be an immediate upward revision of current production goals in cereals, oils and fats.

"The government should immediately reinstitute rationing in oils and fats and should increase government set asides of these and other needed foods to the point where we can at least carry out our repeated promises to the allied and liberated peoples. Without rationing, increased set asides for shipment abroad are not possible nor is fair distribution of amounts allocated to us at home.

"The Congress should play its part by at once renewing price control without crippling amendments in order to protect domestic consumers here and to increase supplies available to the limited purchasing power of the peoples abroad. At the same time, subsidies should be continued to prevent losses to producers in this country.

"In this connection, we point out that the government's abandonment of rationing and its repeated announcements of plans to cut food production are to a great degree responsible for the present crisis.

"We are convinced that the American farmer and the American housewife will accept any responsibility the government may place on them, provided they are assured it will result in increased shipments of food to needy areas.

"We are convinced that the principle of 'voluntarism' expressed by Herbert Hoover, Secy. of Agriculture Clinton Anderson, and yourself, will not suffice in the present crisis.

"Wartime experience has shown that reliance on 'voluntary rationing' results in hoarding by those who can hoard and hardship by those who cannot. In the present crisis, we must not make the millions of victims of fascist aggression suffer through a misguided 'voluntarism.'

"We take sharp exception to your choice of Herbert Hoover as honorary chairman of your Famine Emergency Committee. Such a choice cannot inspire anything but mistrust, not only among our people but also among the peoples abroad.

"After World War I, Hoover used food as a weapon for reactionary political ends. Millions of European and Asiatic people died of starvation because Hoover did not approve of their desires for independent, democratic political action. Everything in Hoover's record since that time indicates that he is prepared, if he gets the chance, to repeat that performance—this time on an even greater scale.

"Our own people felt the bitter effects of Hoover's reactionary policies while they went hungry during his term as President. The workers of this country do not share the confidence that you apparently have in him. We most earnestly urge you Mr. President, to institute at once a program of increased food production, with increased set asides and rationing of such foods to meet at least the minimum needs of our allies abroad.

"We are confident that such a program will receive the fullest support of American workers, farmers and consumers, and that its execution will go a long way toward alleviating the sufferings of the victims of aggresion of World War II."

Give To Defense Of Arkansas Strikers

By Zella Whitfield, Reporter

Harviell, Mo.—Local 349 members have raised $5.00 for the Southern Cotton Oil Strikers Defense Fund, through the efforts of Mrs. Rosa Jones, one of our new members who has just moved here from Arkansas.

Both Mrs. Jones and her husband are active members of our Local. They tell us that conditions are so rotten in Arkansas, that, after living there for many years, they shook the Arkansas dust from their feet and said goodbye to slavery.

Newly elected officers of Local 349 are: Hosie Johnson, Pres.; L. B. Morgan, Vice-Pres.; Zella Whitfield, Sec'y-Treas.; Viola Tripp, Aaron Cowley and Jennett Tripp, Trustees.

Don't Buy Herbert Tareyton

FTA news

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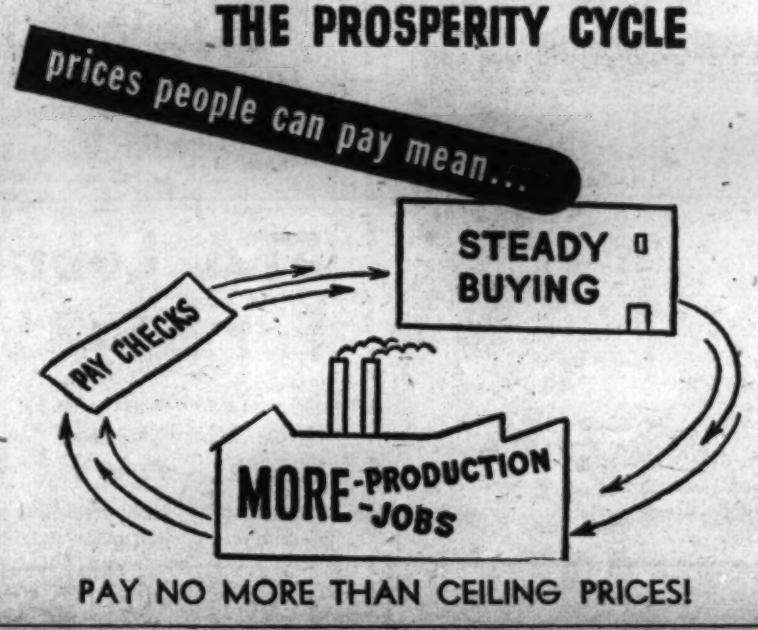


Sharecroppers Aroused Over Campbell Murder

By James Hawkins, Local 63 President

Turrell, Ark.—Local 63 members here are aroused over the brutal murder of Walter Campbell in Little Rock, during the strike at the Southern Cotton Oil Co. It is a common practice in Arkansas to kill a man when he demands his rights, especially if he is a Negro.

Many a Negro's body has been found floating down the river because he asked for what was rightfully his own. The planters and company men don't want the laboring people — the whites and Negroes — to enjoy their rights as American citizens. They refuse to bargain with labor.

Here in Turrell, many a planter like Victor Holmes has taken everything a poor widow owned. Mr. McNeal never allows a Negro to move off his tenant farm once he has moved in. All the tenant can do is walk off and leave everything he owns behind him. O. L. Sanders never settles with his day laborers or share croppers. He has on his plantation a system called a drag. In order to keep the white and Negro workers in this state of peonage, the plantation and company bosses stop nothing short of Ku Klux Klan terror and lynching.

Don't Buy Lucky Strike

18½c Raise Reached By Quaker Oats Local 120

By J. N. Billings, Reporter

Akron, Ohio—A new wage agreement negotiated by Local 120 brought the wage increases won for Quaker Oats employees up to 18½c an hour. The new agreement, which was ratified by the Local membership on March 9, provided a 15% service bonus over and above the workers' individual rates, or 6.9c an hour. This was in addition to the increase of 11½c an hour plus 6 paid holidays which went into effect last October.

The wage increases were won through a reopening clause in the contract signed last October which provided for further wage negotiations after January, 1946. Members of the Negotiating Committee were Hugh Moneypenny, Thomas Hayes, Ray Rowles and Lloyd Hazle. They were assisted by Regional Director Armando Valdes.

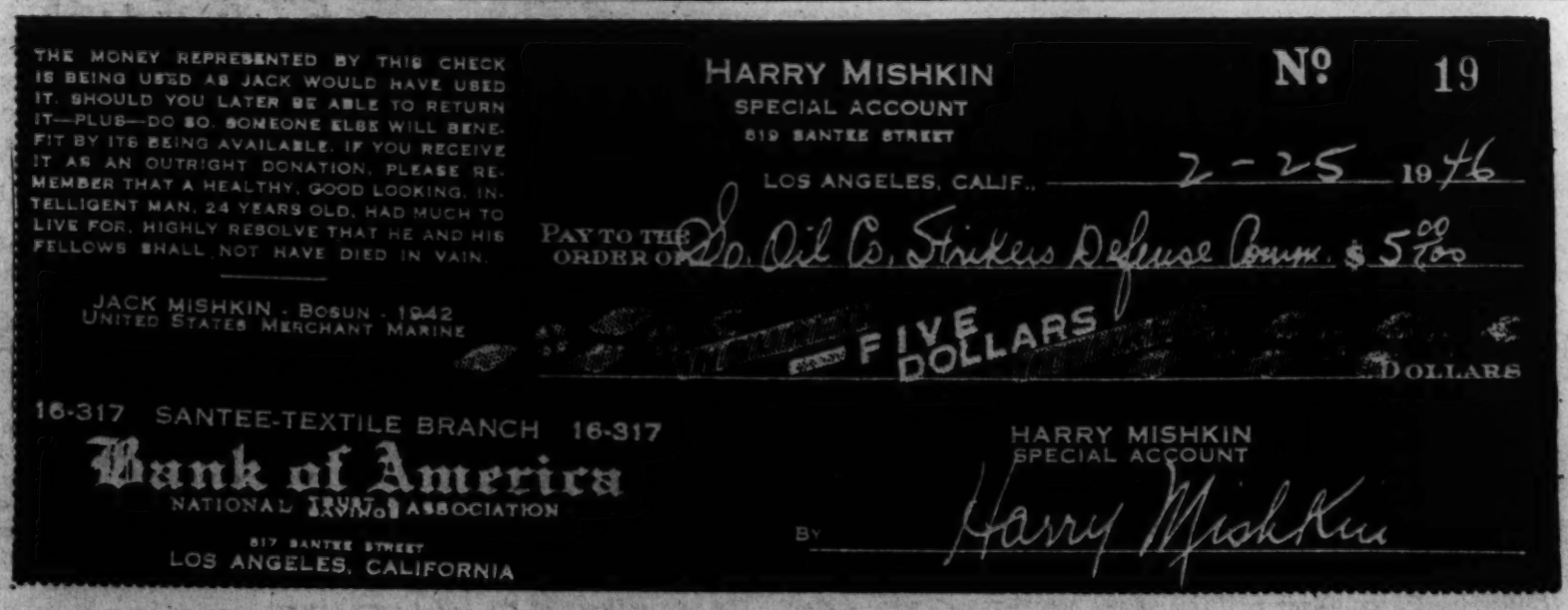
Ray Rowles was elected president of Local 120 at the recent membership meeting to succeed Ed Baltzer who was forced by ill health to resign his office. Rowles, a veteran of South Pacific battles, returned from the Armed Forces in January. He has in the past been an International Organizer for FTA, and is a former president of the Local.

MERVIN MYERS (above) scored again in Local 110's second membership drive contest. Myers, employed in the Feed Department of the Quaker Oats plant, won the first prize of a $15 bond for signing up the most new members in the Local over a period of three months. During the last membership drive he came in second place. Other winners in the contest were: Laura Smith of the Package Department who won the second prize of $10, and Marvin Gates, also of the Package Department, who won the third prize of $5.

By Agnes Dvorak, Reporter

Farmers Vote For Strike Support

Topeka, Kans. — Farmer unity with labor reached an all-time peak at the recent National Farmers Union convention, where 400 delegates representing 160,000 farmers unanimously voted support of General Motors and International Harvester strikers.



THE MONEY REPRESENTED BY THIS CHECK IS BEING USED AS JACK WOULD HAVE USED IT. SHOULD YOU LATER BE ABLE TO RETURN IT—PLUS—DO SO. SOMEONE ELSE WILL BENEFIT BY ITS BEING AVAILABLE. IF YOU RECEIVE IT AS AN OUTRIGHT DONATION, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT A HEALTHY, GOOD LOOKING, INTELLIGENT MAN, 24 YEARS OLD, HAD MUCH TO LIVE FOR, HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT HE AND HIS FELLOWS SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN.

JACK MISHKIN - BOSUN - 1942
UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE

HARRY MISHKIN
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HARRY MISHKIN
SPECIAL ACCOUNT
By Harry Mishkin

No. 19

THE CHECK TELLS THE STORY: From the funds of a young seaman who gave his life in the fight against fascism, a contribution is made to defend the six FTA strikers in Arkansas who were indicted under a fascist-like state anti-labor law. (See story of Little Rock case on page 1.)

Fight Phony Scab Tactic At American Tobacco

Philadelphia, Pa.—American Tobacco strikers here are fighting against a new tactic in strikebreaking. In a petition filed in Federal Court March 19, Local 186 asked for an order to restrain a group of scabs from seeking a new election at the plant through the State Labor Relations Board.

With the obvious intent to break the strike, the scab outfit, calling itself the "Employee Representation Committee,' obtained a hearing before the State Labor Relations Board on March 5 for the purpose of calling a new election in the American Tobacco Philadelphia plant. Local 186 charged that this hearing was illegal.

"By entertaining the scabs' petition, the SLRB is setting a vicious precedent for strike-breaking," FTA attorney Saul Waldbaum declared. "If allowed to go unchecked, this scab maneuver will set the stage for a back-to-work movement under cover of the law."

The Union's petition for a restraining order charged that the State Board has no jurisdiction in the case, since FTA was certified as bargaining agent in the plant by the National Labor Relations Board in 1944. Moreover, the Union has a special petition on file with the National Board asking for bargaining rights for maintenance workers in the plant.

The State Board's action, the Union told U. S. District Judge J. Cullen Ganey, interferes with FTA's rights under the U. S. Constitution, the National Labor Relations Act and the Union's right to collective bargaining.

A hearing in the Federal Court was scheduled for March 25.

Meanwhile negotiations were slowly getting under way between the American Tobacco Company and the Philadelphia and Trenton locals. Negotiations with Charleston Local 15 were scheduled to begin March 28. The Company's preliminary offer of increases up to 10c an hour were rejected by the negotiating committees, but the meetings will continue.

Ag Workers Ask for 31% Wage Hike

San Francisco, Calif. — FTA asked the War Food Administration to order a 31% wage increase for asparagus workers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta at a WFA hearing on March 18.

Vincent Pilien, Local 7 dispatcher, testified that the 1,000 asparagus workers represented by the Union deserve at least a 17.5% increase under the pattern of local wage increases, plus an increase for handling culls and an increase in piece rates for handling white asparagus. He pointed out that the work is highly seasonal, and that workers have to stretch out their earnings over the rest of the year.

Pilien cited official figures to show that cannery-growers can afford to pay the increase out of the $8,560,000 they stand to make this year with the doubling of asparagus prices.

LOBBYING FOR THE 65-75c MINIMUM WAGE BILL: Shown above are Mildred Glenn, Local 58, Detroit, Mich.; Viola Brown and Wesley Bee, Local 22, Winston-Salem, N. C.; and Hayden Sorrell, Local 55, Middletown, Ohio. (See story below.)

Protesting Teamster Terror: Members of Local 77 in Sacramento, Calif., demonstrate outside the Libby, McNeill and Libby plant as part of the FTA campaign to remove the Teamsters' blockade of Northern California canneries. FTA is demanding that both AFL and CIO represent their own members as the NLRB ordered until the next industry-wide election. Similar demonstrations were held in Oakland, Stockton, and Modesto. Holding the sign in the foreground is Mark Froelich, CIO Cannery Council delegate and vice-president of the California CIO. In the center (wearing overcoat) is Howard Goddard who has just been appointed FTA International Representative.

Installation: Newly elected officers of Local 172 in San Antonio, Texas, are shown being installed by FTA Director of Organization John Tisa. The meeting was addressed by Father Hayes, a Catholic Priest attached to the Consulate of the Mexican Government; Regional Director Harry Koger and Tisa. Over 300 members were present. The new officers of the Local are: Dora Silva, Pres.; Emma Martinez, Vice-Pres.; Stella Rodriguez, Fin. Secy.; Victoria Quesado and Dolores Gomez, Shop Stewards. Most of the members are young Spanish-speaking women who work at the Southern Pecan Shelling Company.

FTA Lobbies In Capitol For 65-75c Minimum Bill

Washington, D. C.—Four FTA members from locals in Ohio, Michigan and North Carolina told it to Congress on March 15 when they visited Washington in the fight for passage of the 65c-75c minimum wage bill by the Senate. (See picture above).

The delegation started its tour of the Capitol by button-holing Senator Clyde Hoey (D., N. C.) outside the floor of the Senate. The Senator's name is pronounced "hooey" and that is exactly what the FTA members got from the Senator who began the discussion by weeping for the fate of small business when forced to pay a 65c minimum. It all added up to the fact that Senator Hoey doesn't want the working people to receive a decent wage.

The delegates had better luck with Senator Homer Ferguson (R., Mich.) who stated that he would vote for the bill as reported out by Committee, including provisions for removing the "area of production" and "first processing" exemptions which rob food and tobacco processing workers of overtime pay.

Senator Huffman (D., Ohio) also said that he was solidly behind the bill and was planning to make a speech on the floor in support of it.

Senator Josiah Bailey (D., N. C.) wouldn't see the delegation, but his secretary told them he was opposed to the bill on the grounds that he doesn't approve of federal government interference in the business of the individual state.

The delegates ended a busy day by visiting the Senate, where they were shocked to see that only three Senators were present for the discussion. When they learned that this is typical of the kind of attention our Congressmen have been giving to important legislation, they resolved to return home and see to it that an all out PAC job is done by the locals and individual members.

Win 16c An Hour Raise At Swift Refinery Co.

By Albert O'Brien, International Representative

Harvey, La.—FTA scored another victory in the fight against the South's notoriously low-wage scale when Local 309 won a 16c an hour wage increase across-the-board for the workers at the Swift Refinery plant here recently. Now the plant minimum is 76c an hour for men and 71c for women. It's the first raise over 5c that they've ever won.

When the Union opened negotiations for wage increases with the Company on March 7, the Company gave them the same old line about how "living costs have always been so cheap here," and ". . . the prevailing rates of pay in this area," etc. But the Union flatly replied that as far as they were concerned, the "prevailing rate area" was bounded only by Canada on the north, Mexico on the south and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans on the east and west.

Company representatives finally agreed to a 16c an hour raise to be incorporated into the Union's contract which expires next June.

To say that the workers are happy about the raise is putting it mildly. They're mighty proud that their Union is helping to pull the workers out of the rut that all Southern workers have been in for so long.

The next step in Local 309's fight for higher wages will take place during forthcoming negotiations at Penick and Ford and at the Swift Fertilizer Company

Members of the Negotiating Committee at Swift Refinery were Pres. Jesse Gros, Wilfred Simraneaux, and George Williams. They were assisted by Int. Rep. Albert O'Brien and CIO Regional Representative Russel.

Stoppage Halts Speed-Up Plans At Campbell's

Chicago, Ill.—Wage-cutting plans through the speed-up system at the Campbell Soup plant in Chicago were given a resounding defeat March 4, when 4000 Campbell Soup employees walked out in support of 17 protesting retort men. The Company was attempting to reduce the retort crew from 17 to 15 men.

This attempt was met by the Shop Steward immediately filing a department grievance against the speed-up of the 15 men remaining, 12 of whom were veterans. Local 194 requested an immediate meeting to settle the grievance, but the Company refused, saying that they were investigating the case. This so-called investigation took 2½ days, during which they proceeded with their speed-up plans and reduced the crew by two men. Finally, the men refused to show up for work on Monday morning, March 4.

The Union called the Company to meet to settle this grievance, but the Company refused to meet until the workers went back on the job. The twelve vets took the position that the Company had two days to settle the grievance. They declared that they fought a war to preserve their living standards and didn't want to be pushed around by the Campbell Soup Company.

Since the Company had already attempted to introduce the speed-up in many other departments, the other workers in the plant recognized the Company's action as a declaration of war. In a very short time the word spread around the plant, and at 10 a.m. two more departments shut down, followed in rapid succession by all the departments in the plant. In an hour the entire plant was closed down.

Company Gives in

Finding themselves being speeded up to sit down and negotiate with the Union if they wanted to save their cans of soup, the Company finally agreed that all workers would be returned to their job without discrimination; the Company would meet immediately with the workers in the retort department to settle their grievance; and that if not settled the grievance would be submitted to arbitration. The Company also agreed to provide relief men besides the regular working force in the retort department to protect the men against the speed-up.

Map Fight Against Racial Bias

By Hazel Davidson, Reporter

Redlands, Calif. — The Citrus Workers Organizing Committee took part in a conference recently which mapped out a hard hitting united action campaign to combat racial discrimination.

CWOC members representing the Union at the Anti-Discrimination Conference in Los Angeles on March 10 were: Mabel Williamson, Florence De Freze, Hazel Davidson, Bea Rasmussen and Dave Forbes.

The Conference which was chaired by Oliver Boutte, Port Agent of the National Maritime Union, featured Charlotta Bass, Editor of the California Eagle, and Father George Dunn of Loyola University as principle speakers. Both speakers pointed out that the big task of the CIO is the complete elimination of racial discrimination; that discrimination must be fought at all times.

Local 7-2 Tells It To Congressmen

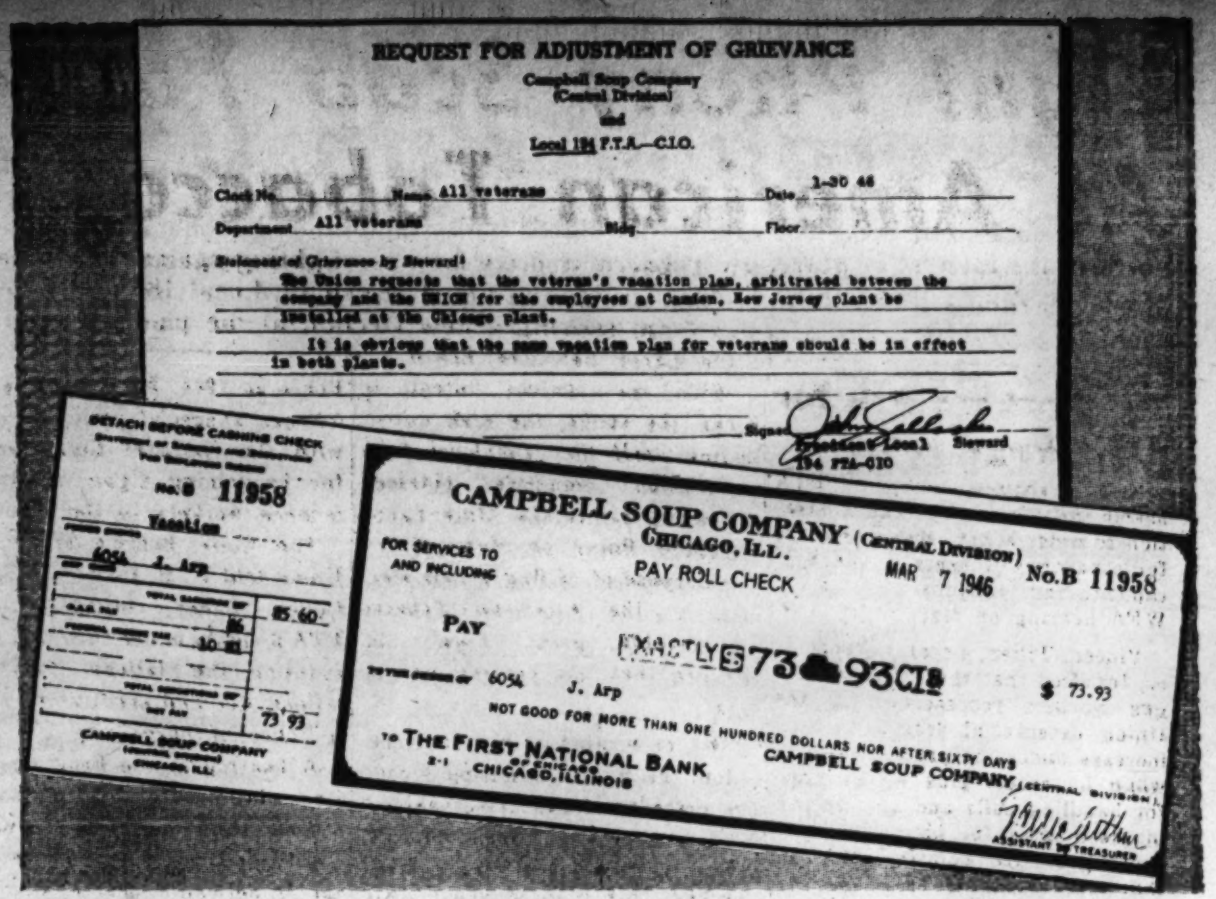
Seattle, Wash.—Local 7-2 wrote their Senators and Congressman recently to support the following bills:

S 1717—the McMahon Bill for civilian control of atomic energy. The Local pointed out that amendments which give control to military brasshats must be substituted by CIO supported amendments.

HR 1899—the Jackson Bill for unemployment compensation for merchant seamen.

HR 5270—the bill to extend price control, which would renew OPA for one year.

The letter also called for support to emergency housing legislation and the defeat of anti-labor bills.


REQUEST FOR ADJUSTMENT OF GRIEVANCE

Campbell Soup Company (Central Division) and Local 194 F.T.A.—C.I.O.

Check No. ____ Name All veterans ____ Date 1-30 46

Department All veterans Bldg ____ Floor ____

Statement of Grievance by Steward:

The Union requests that the veteran's vacation plan, arbitrated between the company and the UNION for the employees at Camden, New Jersey plant be installed at the Chicago plant.

It is obvious that the same vacation plan for veterans should be in effect in both plants.

Signed ____ Steward

DETACH BEFORE CASHING CHECK

No. B 11958

Vacation

6054 J. Arp

85.60

10.33

73.93

CAMPBELL SOUP COMPANY

CAMPBELL SOUP COMPANY (CENTRAL DIVISION) CHICAGO, ILL.

FOR SERVICES TO AND INCLUDING PAY ROLL CHECK MAR 7 1946 No. B 11958

PAY EXACTLY $73.93 CTS $ 73.93

TO THE ORDER OF 6054 J. Arp

NOT GOOD FOR MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS NOR AFTER SIXTY DAYS

TO THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 2-1

CAMPBELL SOUP COMPANY (CENTRAL DIVISION)

ASSISTANT BY TREASURER

Vacation Pay for Vets was refused by the Campbell Soup plant in Chicago when Local 194 demanded it. The Local filed a grievance with the Company and demanded the same settlement Local 80 at the Camden plant won through arbitration. Above is the grievance slip Local 194 filed, and below it, the results: a check for vacation pay for 1945 for one of the veterans.

Victory is written all over the faces of these veterans who are happily waving the checks they got for vacation pay, thanks to the fight Local 194 put up for them. Local 80's victory on this issue at the Camden plant paved the way for the results won at the Chicago plant. The Arbitrator ruled that veterans who returned to work before January 1 of 1946 or 1947 will receive vacation pay for the preceding year. Are they going to help make Campbell's Soup 100% union? You bet they will.

Business

By Harold Kotzker, International Organizer

If a firm should lie and cheat,
That's business;
If they fool the men they meet,
That's business;
And if swindling plans increase,
If their honesty should cease,
WAIT—don't call for the police—
It's business!

If they cut the workers' wage,
That's business;
If they yell at them in rage,
That's business;
If the working time they speed,
If they won't stop in their greed
Till the country runs to seed—
That's business!

If slick tricks will help them sell,
That's business;
Exploitation? Might as well—
It's business!
And if in the race for gain
They should overstock in vain,
Lay men off—they can't complain:
It's business!

For overproduction too
Is business;
And inflation is not new—
It's business!
Say, you should expect such things!
Just stand humbly, while life brings
Toil for you, and profit swings
To business!

Fight the Wage and Hour Law
For business;
Pass a Break-the-Union-Law
For business;
It's the only thing to do—
For how else can wealth accrue
To build up the bugaboo
Of business?

* * *

But it's time that it was made
Our business!
Time we took part, unafraid
Of business!
Let them see that workers know
How to build and how to grow
With a mighty CIO
In business!

Collective bargaining becomes
New business;
With an end to crusts and crumbs
of business;
With a slogan, then, of FIGHT,
Striving toward our lawful right,
We shall cure the present plight
Of business!

FTA will point the way
OUR business!
Join with us, and have YOUR say
In "business"!
And upon a platform strong,
Pledged to fight against each wrong,
We shall stand where we belong
In business!

Local 64 Gives Hour's Pay To Help Strikers

By Helga Weigert, International Representative

San Diego, Calif.—Recent strike struggles in FTA and the rest of the CIO raised the feeling of labor solidarity to a new high among the members of Local 64, which they demonstrated by voting an hour's pay a week for strike relief. Of the amount raised each week in this way, 50% goes to the American Tobacco strike and the other 50% is earmarked for the striking workers of other CIO unions.

The first week following this decision, the Local donated a check for $50 to the American Tobacco strike and another $50 to the Southern Cotton Oil Strikers Defense Committee. One of the members, Clarence Kiesling, a veteran, turned over an entire week's pay to the strike fund.

Local 64 members made another contribution of $50 recently to the strikers at the Consolidated Vultee aircraft plant in San Diego where the International Association of Machinists is battling it out with the big monopoly outfit. Members of the local joined with members of other CIO unions to march on the IAM picket line.

Another San Diego strike got Local 64 support when the Union persuaded the Van Camp Seafood Co. to discontinue taking ice from the Union Ice Co. until the AFL Teamster strike there is settled. This action got a good story in the local press.

FTA members pointed out that they were supporting the rank and file members of the Teamsters' Salesdrivers and Helpers Union in this strike, and not the reactionary Teamster leadership.

CIO Leaders Urge Close Cooperation With USSR

Washington, D.C.—An appeal for "closer understanding and cooperation" with the USSR in the interest of peace, prosperity and progress was voiced in a report to the CIO Executive Board meeting here recently by the CIO delegation which visited the Soviet Union last October.

Headed by CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey, the 11-man delegation reported that "we were impressed with the character of the Soviet Trade unions, and with their many excellent activities in promoting the interest of the workers." The delegates also remarked about the "most far-reaching character of the social insurance system operated by the Soviet trade unions, which is designed to protect working people and their families against all contingencies from the cradle to the grave."

The CIO officials noted that while the Soviet workers were now on a shorter working day, they had received no cuts in take-home pay.

"While there are many obvious differences in the systems and governments of the United States and the Soviet Union," the report declared, "we found parallels in the functioning of labor unions in both countries."

US Must Aid USSR

The Soviet people are making "substantial progress in reconstruction" of the devastation caused by the Nazi invasion, according to the delegates. They added that the United States can aid the USSR in the task of economic development by supplying machines, industrial techniques and goods of all sorts.

As a step toward developing "understanding and friendship . . . between the working and common people of all countries," the CIO delegates called for an exchange of workers between the USSR and the United States.

The CIO group visited the USSR last October as guests of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, following the World Federation of Trade Unions convention in Paris. Their report was based on their observations and conversations with Soviet trade unionists. Everywhere, they reported, the Russian workers indicated their desire to repair the ravages of war as quickly as possible, produce large quantities of consumer goods, and re-establish the Soviet social welfare program for workers on a peacetime basis.

With the disappearance of unemployment in the USSR since 1930, the delegates learned, the unemployment insurance fund has been turned over to other social welfare purposes. If a worker is out of work through machine breakdowns, etc., there is a general rule that he must continue to receive his average rate of wages until production is resumed.

In nearly every factory, women composed at least half the working force, and they received equal pay for equal work.

"We've seen the price you have paid to establish freedom for all peoples of the world," Albert Fitzgerald, president of the United Electrical Workers told a meeting of trade unionists in Leningrad. "We in America are determined that no force within or without is ever going to turn us against your people again."

Reid Robinson, president of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, followed him by paying high tribute to the democratic ideal. "We must break down the propaganda that you have no democracy as we have," he said.

Urge Break With Franco

Washington, D. C.—The United States must break diplomatic relations with the Franco dictatorship in Spain immediately, the CIO Executive Board declared in a resolution adopted March 15.

Calling attention to "the recent executions by the bloody Franco dictatorship of 10 heroic Spanish republicans," the CIO Board said "the existence of fascism in Spain is by no means exclusively an internal question for the Spanish people themselves."

The allied victory over Hitler "will not be complete or secure until Spain itself is free," the resolution said. The Board resolved to "join with the World Federation of Trade Unions, speaking on behalf of world labor, in denouncing the brutal Franco regime and recording our burning protests against the murder of the 10 republican heroes, and urges the State Dept. immediately to break off diplomatic relations with Spain."

CIO Protests Ban On WFTU In UNO

Washington, D. C.—A resolution protesting the arbitrary action of the U. S. delegation to the United Nations Organization in depriving the World Federation of Trade Unions from representation in the social and economic council was adopted by the CIO Executive Board.

Urge Famine Relief For South African Workers

New York, N. Y.—Paul Robeson, head of the Council on African Affairs, has appealed to all churches and progressive organizations throughout the country to observe "Help Africa Day," March 31, by contributing food and funds to South African Famine relief.

To date, the Council has forwarded $1,800 and 77 cases of canned food to the African Food Fund in Cape Town, South Africa, which is distributing relief supplies to Africans in famine stricken sections of the country.

Special meetings and services are being planned in various cities throughout the United States to raise funds for the millions of suffering and starving Africans. The meetings will call upon the United Nations Organization to expose South Africa's fascist system of racial discrimination. They will also call for self-determination for all colonial subjects in Africa, according to Robeson.

All contributions should be sent to the Council on African Affairs, Inc., 23 West 26th St., New York 10, N. Y.

ACROSS-THE-OCEAN LETTERS:

How They Organized In South Africa

FTA members have already exchanged letters with union members in England and the Soviet Union, many of which were printed in FTA NEWS. The following letter from a cannery worker in South Africa was received recently by Theodosia Simpson, Business Agent of Local 22:

Dear Comrade:

I am Joyce Ehrenreich, Secretary of the Food and Canning Workers Union, Paarl Branch. The Paarl Branch of our Union is the biggest branch and we claim to be the best organized Union. We have nearly 100% organization.

My life story is very similar to the life stories of the members of our Branch. At the age of 16 years, at the end of 1938 and the beginning of 1939, I started to work at H. Jones and Co., during the summer school vacations. I used to start at 7 a.m. in the morning and work till 11 o'clock at night with a break of one hour, lunch hour, and in the evening between 6 and 7 p.m. we were given by the firm buns and hot coffee and just the time to eat it. My weekly wage rate for a 48-hour week was 8/6 per week, making 2d per hour (less than 3½c).

My job was to carry buckets of raw cut fruit to the checkers who examined the cut fruit to see whether the ripe and half ripe are not mixed. Should she find the fruit in order she empties it on a conveying belt which conveys it to the canners who pack them in the tins.

In 1939-1940 school holidays I again went to the factory on the same job and was paid 12/6 per week; but after two days of working I was put on to cut fruit—doing piece work. After another three days of cutting fruit, I was again taken off from cutting on to a day worker again but to a position of a checker which is a much more responsible job and from that instant my wages were 15/— a week. In 1940-1941 school holidays, I again went to the factory and I was again given the same work as checker and then received 17/6 per week and from 1941 I became a permanent worker. After three weeks of checking, I was made an assistant timekeeper on the same 17/6 per week. After a few weeks attending to timekeeping, I felt I was doing a responsible job for so little money so I went to see the work's manager and asked him if my wages were correct as I am doing such an important job. He said, "You are like a young dove, only getting the first feathers and want to fly already," and so I carried on working for 17/6 (about $3.50) until the big thing happened.

On the 1st September, 1941, the workers came out on strike. I, together with a number of other workers, did not know about the strike and worked the full day. It was not in the season and there were not many workers working, so the few of us who had lunch time did not notice anything. But at night when I came home I was told by my father about the strike and he told me that I should go to the workers' meeting at the Weldadig Genootskap Saal. I went up to see my friends Lizzie Retief and Betty Kearns and found that they were on strike and they asked me to accompany them to the workers' homes to explain to them about the strike and about the

Joyce Ehrenreich

Union. I learned the story of the strike from Lizzie Retief and Betty Kearns which was as follows:

On the 30th August, 1941, a big mass meeting of workers employed at H. Jones & Co. took place at Weldadig Genootskap Saal, Temple Street, Paarl. The meeting was organized by the Food and Canning Workers Union, Paarl Branch. The meeting was addressed by Ray Alexander, Secretary of the Food and Canning Workers Union and Priscilla April, chairman of the Food and Canning Workers Union, Wellington Branch. The chairman of this big meeting was Cecil Capello who worked for the firm for 17 years. At this big meeting a resolution was taken to submit demands to H. Jones & Co. for higher wages, better conditions of work and, failing a satisfactory reply, to declare a dispute in terms of the Industrial Conciliation Act.

Wages in the canning factories, Paarl and Wellington, ranged from 15/— to 18/— a week and only a handful of workers were paid above £1. (about $4.00) per week.

On the 1st September, 1941, Cecil Capello was dismissed at 7:30 a.m. by the factory manager, and the workers subsequently walked out from the factory. On the same morning the head office posted the demands agreed upon the meeting on the 30th August, in Paarl, to Messrs. H. Jones & Co.

Immediately the strike broke out the Union office made representation to the employer to meet a deputation of the Union with a view to settle the strike, but the firm refused to meet the deputation of the Union. The Union's demands were for immediate reinstatement of Cecil Capello, recognition of the Union and an immediate increase in wages for the workers.

I agreed to accompany them and that night we visited many workers' homes and persuaded the workers to stay out on strike and to join the Food and Canning Workers Union. I did it although I, myself, was not yet a Union member. I only joined the Union on the 2nd, September, the second day of the strike at the meeting addressed by Ray Alexander at Weldadig Genootskap Saal. After her address many workers came forward and were prepared to join the Union and Ray Alexander asked workers to come forward and help fill in the forms. She took my hand and said, "Can you read and write?" I said "yes," and I started to help with the forms, and it was then that I also filled in the form for myself.

The strike lasted for 19 days. It was the first organized strike of the canning workers at Paarl. There were numerous strikes before by the workers but they were not organized. The strike was supported by the whole trade union movement in South Africa and Rhodesia, by school teachers and other progressive organizations. The strike was settled by the employers recognizing the Union and an immediate increase in wages for the workers, not only for H. Jones & Co. but for the workers of all other canning factories to be retroactive from September 1, 1941.

After the strike my wages were brought up to £1.6 and cost of living allowance of 1/6 per week. My position as asst. timekeeper was taken from me and I again became a checker. In February, 1942, the result of a wage agreement between the Union and the employers, my wage was brought up to £1.7.6 per week and the cost of living allowance was increased.

I worked in the factory until September, 1943, when the Union branch elected me as their paid secretary and I then left the factory. Our Union has grown from strength to strength and has brought about higher wages for the workers, two weeks' holidays on full pay, two weeks' sick leave on full pay and the general conditions in the factory have vastly improved. As far as our branch is concerned the 1st September was the big event in our life.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Joyce Ehrenreich.

Storm Over Pepper Bill In Senate

Washington, D.C. — No sooner did the 65-75c Minimum Wage bill hit the Floor of the Senate on March 14, than it was met with a storm of reactionary opposition from Southern Senators. Leon Henderson, former OPA Administrator, on the eve before Senate debate began, labelled the arguments of those attacking the bill (S 1349) as "a lot of G— damned nonsense."

The bill, which would amend the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act by advancing its 40c per hour minimum wage to 65c and then to 75c after four years, "would provide only three-fourths of a bare minimum of family living standard," Henderson said. "And yet," he continued, "the Senate is being told that substantial businesses would be ruined if the bill were passed. I say, in these days of war-swollen prices, literally millions of families are getting only third and fourth class seats at the dinner table . . . Just look at the record. It shows that profits are big enough so that most everyone can be paid a minimum of 65c today."

4 Million Affected

He pointed out that extending the act to cover new groups of workers, including food processing workers, would mean raises for about 4 million workers now making below 65c an hour.

Leading the opposition in behalf of Southern low-wage industries, Senators John Overton and Allen Ellender (both D., La.) showed concern of the effect of the bill on Southern businesses. Senators James Tunnell (D., Del.) and Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) told them that living standards are low "in the South because there isn't enough money in the pay envelopes to lift it."

Tobacco Industry Can Afford 65c

Washington, D. C.—High profits in the tobacco industry show that the proposed 65c minimum wage would not drive anyone out of business, Sen. Glen H. Taylor (D., Idaho) said March 21. Taylor said that the tobacco industry paid 58% of its workers less than 65c an hour. Raising all wages to 65c would cost the industry just $14 million of its 1944 profit of 154 million, he said.

YOU AND YOUR DOLLAR FOR PAC

CIO Spurs PAC Drive

Washington, D.C.—"We are now in a year of momentous political significance, with the needs of political action for 1946 immediately upon us," said the CIO Executive Board in a resolution calling for an intensified, hard-hitting PAC drive to protect labor's gains on the picket lines.

Item Number One which the resolution highlighted was the need for a vigorously conducted registration drive, combined with a national campaign for $1 contributions from union members for PAC. The resolution asked that international unions "immediately instruct their various officers and representatives to push the campaign for $1 contributions and for registration, with both determination and vigor, and that Industrial Union Councils immediately do all in their power to stimulate and co-ordinate the $1 campaign and the registration drive in their various communities."

Political Strength

The CIO's victorious drive for wage boosts "unequalled in the history of American labor was made possible by CIO's political strength combined with its economic strength and strike action," the resolution said. "Political strength is essential to protect organized labor from the vicious attacks being made upon it by the reactionaries now trying to push anti-union bills through Congress.

Aggressive political action is necessary to protect the wage increases and the purchasing power of the people from the attacks of the greedy who seek to increase corporate profits by abolishing price control," the resolution declared.

FORWARD MARCH!

Financial Structure

By HAROLD J. LANE, International Secretary-Treasurer

THE action taken by the International Executive Board in approving the appointment of

John Tisa as Organizational Director for the International Union, and the increased personnel in the various Regional Councils throughout the International Union, will allow me to devote more time to:

● The strict enforcement of all sections of the International Constitution dealing with finances.

● More effectively carry out the duties of my office as prescribed by the International Constitution and I am especially referring to the following section—

"Upon specific request by any Local Secretary, Treasurer or Trustees, or upon instructions from the International Executive Board, the General Secretary-Treasurer shall have the authority to examine or cause to be examined the financial and membership records of any Local Union.

● Devote more time to the over-all study and application of correct and adequate financial structure of the International Union, Regional Councils and Local Unions.

What Dues Are For

When we talk about finances, whether on a local scale, regional scale or national scale, we start on certain basic facts upon which everyone is agreed:

1. The amount of dues charged by Local Unions should be based on how much it takes to provide for the efficient business-like operation of the Local Union. The amount charged should enable the Local Union to meet all its financial obligations, such as affiliation and payment of per capita to City CIO Councils, State CIO Councils—provide for adequate personnel, including a business manager or fulltime functionary for the Local Union—provide for funds for the complete participation of the Local Union in all matters effecting the welfare of the membership, such as delegations to City and National legislative bodies and participation in any conferences or conventions called by various other organizations, which are effectively leading the fight to advance the interests of the American working class.

2. All money paid by workers in the form of initiation fees, dues or assessments must be used to—improve the wages, hours and working conditions of our membership through new organization and consolidation—through legislative action and/or through economic action.

During the coming period we must take stock of our financial structure and determine whether or not we are utilizing our present dues structure in order to most effectively carry out the above mentioned major responsibilities.

In the next column I will attempt to analyze these questions from the standpoint of the International Office.

CIO Reports Wage Gains Of 621 Million Dollars

Washington, D. C.—CIO wage gains hit a new high of $621.2 million with the settlement of the General Motors, General Electric, Packard and Nash-Kelvinator strikes involving 314,000 workers, the CIO Executive Board reported at its meeting here March 15-16. Previous wage gains reported in the March 15 issue of the News totaled $500 million for 1,450,800 workers.

Emphasizing the tremendous wage increases won by the CIO for the industrial workers of the nation during the past several weeks, President Philip Murray outlined plans for a CIO organizing campaign among unorganized southern workers to be launched this spring. A million dollar fund has been set up to finance the campaign, which is under the direction of Van. A. Bittner, Murray's asssitant in the Steel Workers Union.

The Southern campaign will be the first in CIO history in which all organizers will be directly responsible to the CIO national organization. As locals are established, they will be turned over to the international union in each industry.

Organizing Goal

Recent successes in the drive for increased wages and the well co-ordinated plans for the current drive in the South indicate strong possibilities for the organization of some 1½ million new workers during the coming year. Principal targets will be the textile, rubber, furniture, clothing and chemical industries in the South as well as other low-wage industries.

Other decisions arrived at by the board included an intensification of political action; calling upon the U. S. to break relations with Franco's fascist regime in Spain; demanding abolition of the poll tax; urging Senate adoption of the 65-75c minimum wage; and calling for the defeat of the Case bill and all anti-labor bills.

Price Control Needed

All unions were urged to mobilize in a nationwide campaign for the extension of price control and an improved social security program.

The board criticized the U. S. delegation to the UNO for its part in preventing full acceptance of the World Federation of Trade Unions in the UNO Social and Economic Council. They also protested police brutality on picket lines and in the recent anti-Negro attacks in Columbia, Tenn.

Sidney Hillman, reporting on his tour of trade unions in the occupied zones of Germany, called for united nations assistance to the re-birth of trade unions and other democratic organizations.

Protest Police Terror Against Labor, Negroes

Washington, D. C.—Sharply condemning recent evidences of police brutality against "labor and against minority groups such as Negroes," the CIO Executive Board called upon U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark to "undertake vigorous prosecution of public officials who engage in violations of the federal civil rights acts."

The resolution which the board adopted pointed out evidences of such brutality in Columbia, Tenn., where state police destroyed and devasted thousands of dollars worth of property in the Negro community of that city. Following mass arrests, "this activity reached its high point in the killing of two of the arrested Negroes in the jailhouse by the police officers themselves.

"During the same period," the resolution stated, "the police in Philadelphia were attacking strikers engaged in a peaceful parade on the public streets, and were using their clubs freely. Not satisfied merely with breaking up the parade, the police followed individual paraders onto private property and into private homes to beat and club them without provocation."

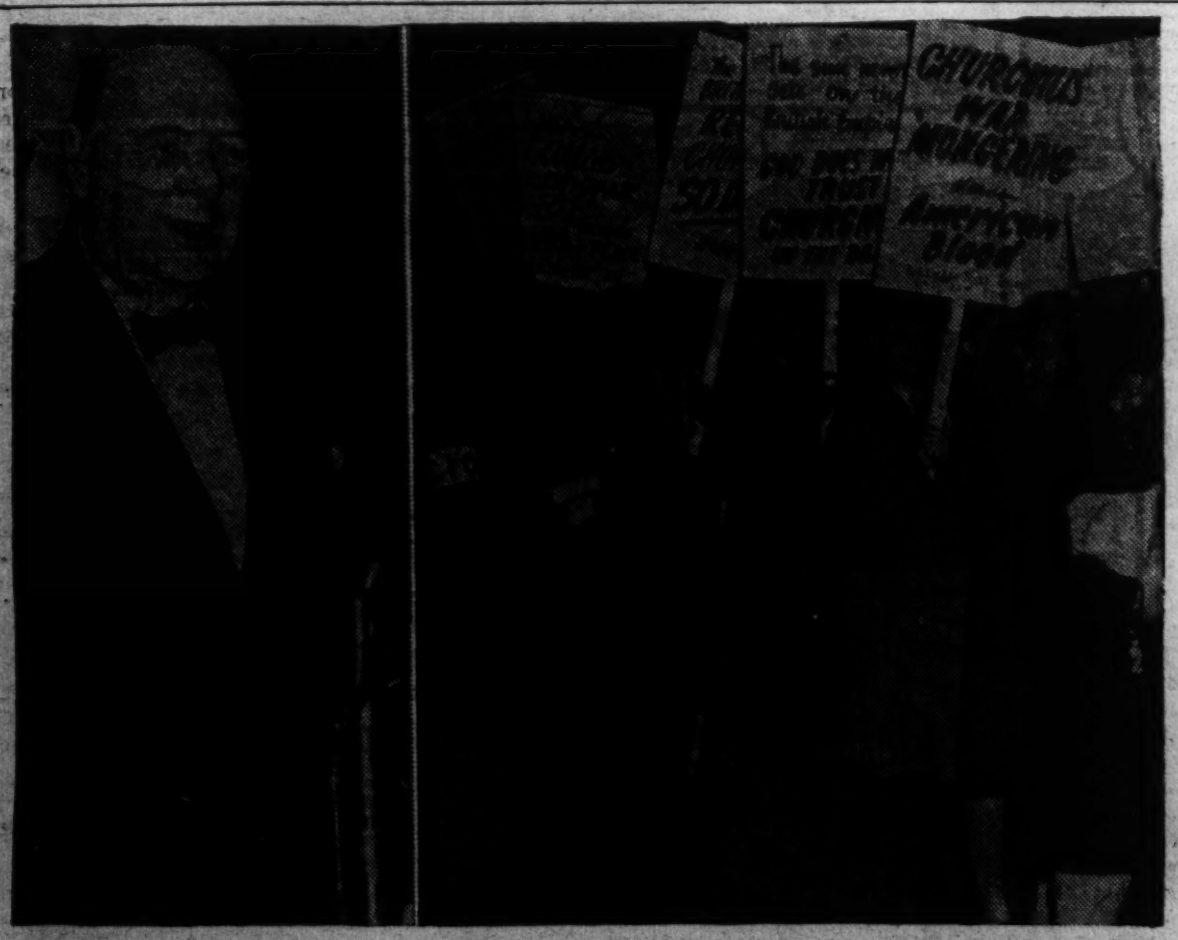
The resolution cited similar examples of police violence in the cities of Chicago and Los Angeles.

"These are not simply isolated instances without relation to each other," the resolution said. "Each unpunished act of police brutality is an encouragement to the same pattern of conduct elsewhere. It is important that all forces of of government and the people be brought to bear in defense of democratic and constitutional rights to prevent any spread of a program of terror and lynch spirit."

Ickes Criticizes Truman Policies

New York, N.Y.—"The people want President Truman to stand up aggressively for the foreign policies of President Roosevelt. They do not feel comfortable with the sniping at Russia which is being indulged in. They know without Russia we would still be fighting the war. They cannot visage a peaceful future without an understanding with Russia," said former Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes on his appointment as Executive Chairman of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions.

In his first major speech since his break with the Truman Administration, Ickes criticized Truman for failing to follow through by action the Roosevelt policies he supported in words.



"Go Home, Winnie, we're sick and tired of war," 5,000 CIO pickets shouted as they marched around New York's swank Waldorf Astoria where Winston Churchill called on Americans to preserve the British Empire. As lavishly furred and jeweled guests arrived at the Waldorf, CIO pickets shouted "Churchill wants war, we want peace. The British people turned him down—so do we." Letters and wires protesting Churchill's attacks on Russia have been sent to Truman by many labor and other progressive groups.

ATOMIC ENERGY— FOR WAR OR PEACE?

By Betty Goldstein, Federated Press

UNDER smokescreen of the Canadian spy scare a conspiracy is shaping up in the U. S. which would rob the people of the benefits of atomic energy and may blow up world peace.

Front men in the conspiracy are the brass hats, headed by Maj. Gen. L. R. Groves, using wartime methods to keep atomic energy under rigid military control for a secret bomb-building program.

Aiding them are the isolationist forces in Congress, the State Dept. and other powerful places who would use the atom bomb as a big stick to further a U. S. foreign policy geared to eventual war on Russia.

Remaining quietly in the background are America's largest corporations, now reviving their cartel links abroad, who have the most to profit from American imperialism and the most to lose if atomic secrecy is lifted.

Last fall Groves and other high Army and Navy officers testified at secret and restricted hearings before the House military affairs committee that the May-Johnson bill was vital to national security. The bill would vest control of atomic energy in a few military officers with no responsibility to either Congress, the President or the people. Fascist restrictions would be placed on scientists and policy-making control over bombs would let a military clique build up a secret army—something which American democracy has never before permitted.

Groves ignored or distorted facts known to every scientist—that there is no defense against the atom bomb, that the U. S. big secret can be worked out by other nations in six months, that these nations can have enough bombs within five years to devastate the U. S. Convinced that Groves' policy, if successful, would lead the world to disaster, atomic scientists all over the country began to organize to tell the people the truth.

The scientists, working almost alone, protested so effectively that the May-Johnson bill was dropped soon after it was reported out on the House floor. Then Pres. Truman joined Great Britain and Russia in pledging international control of atomic energy and indorsed legislation to keep atomic energy in the hands of civilians.

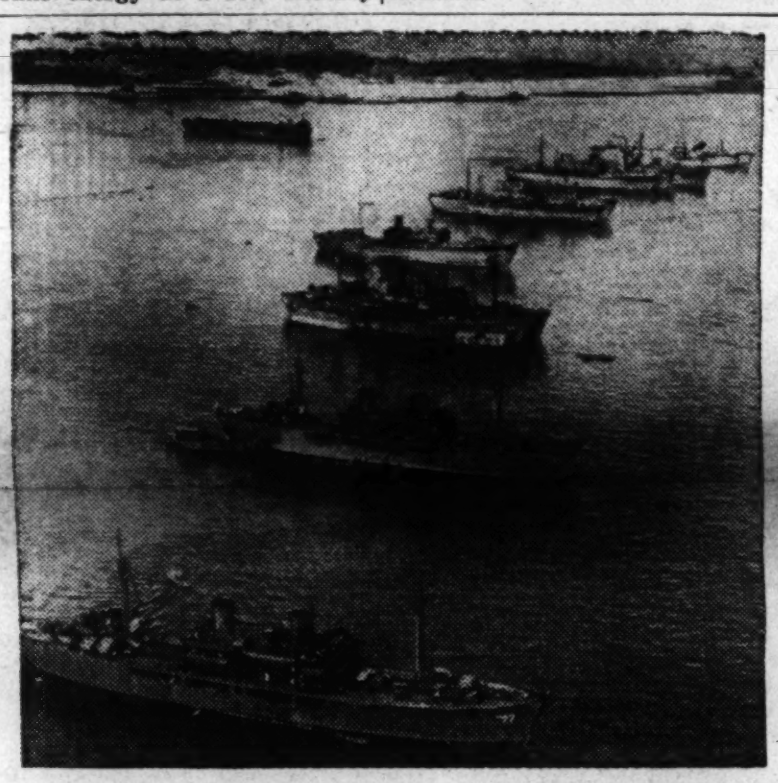
Backed by the nation's No. 1 nuclear physicist, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, Sec. of Commerce Henry A. Wallace, Harold L. Ickes and organizations representing 90% of the atom scientists, the MacMahon bill for civilian control was ready to be reported out by the Senate committee with good chances of passage.

Then came the Canadian atomic spy scare. Cashing in on the hysteria that followed, Groves charged that atomic information had leaked out in the U. S. without presenting a bit of evidence. Under cover of the manufactured "Let's fight Russia" campaign, highlighted by Winston Churchill's Missouri speech, the House military affairs committee, with scant notice in the press, voted a rule that would bring the May-Johnson military bill back on the floor.

Still another storm signal came the same day when the Justice Dept. urged Congress to stiffen espionage laws by imposing $300,000 fines and 30-year jail sentences on persons divulging atomic information and to eliminate from any bill "provisions authorizing the release of basic scientific information."

The corporations have remained strangely silent throughout this fight. It is not generally known that the atomic engineering secrets are no secret to at least four companies—E. E. duPont deNemours, Monsanto Chemical, General Electric and Eastman—which had access to every phase of the project. Other corporations—Westinghouse, Standard Oil, Union Carbon & Carbide, Chrysler and Allis-Chalmers—had access to much of it. These companies are clearly interested in getting in on the ground floor of the atomic field. GE has shaped up scientists from every phase of the project. DuPont has offered to buy the government's $350 million Hanford Engineer Works.

If the American people are frightened into accepting the May-Johnson bill for military control of atomic energy, it would set off an armaments race that would lead only to disaster. The issue is now up to the American people: Will they let the atom bomb be used by the U. S. to blow up chances of world peace or will they demand that science's greatest discovery be used for the benefit of all mankind?



Atom Test "Guinea Pigs:" Cargo and transport vessels selected as targets for Operation Crossroads, the atom test at Bikini Atoll, assemble at Pearl Harbor before shoving off for experiment area. (Federated Pictures.)

CIO Says:

"The secrets related to atomic energy which are in the posession of the United States are in reality few and limited, and cannot be retained for any great length of time. Our industrial potential, a temporary advantage in any world race for atomic armament, could not protect us permanently.

"To enter any such atomic armament race with other powers would destroy any hope of international cooperation and could only end in disaster for the world. Suitable international machinery must be established to bring the use of atomic energy under world-wide social direction.

"This country should speak out now in favor of setting up such machinery and should declare its readiness to pool all its information and know-how on atomic energy jointly with all other nations when such machinery has been agreed upon and put into operation."

Atom Scientists Say:

A special statement for Federated Press by W. A. Higinbotham, chairman of the Federation of American Scientists, representing more than 90% of the men who worked on the atom bomb:

"The most important problem today is to win the peace by ending war. Congress is now drafting legislation for national control of atomic energy. This legislation must promote international agreement and good faith. A development which will mean so much in peace as well as war must not be controlled by the armed forces but must be administered by civilians responsible to the people.

"Strong forces are at work to obtain military control of atomic energy and to stifle all science. Scientists have taken the lead in making the facts about atomic energy known to the people. But the threat of military control of science is also a threat of military control of labor for it is the beginning of fascism. This problem is of vital concern to all American citizens who want to live in freedom from fear.

"Atomic energy must not get into the hands of those who can think only in terms of war. The scientists appeal to labor to learn the truth and act to defend democracy and peace."

THE Story of Labor
COAL MINERS AROUND 1900 WERE BADLY EXPLOITED. THE WORK WAS DANGEROUS, WAGES AVERAGED $22. A MONTH, A 10 HOUR DAY WAS STANDARD, AND COMPANY HOUSES AND STORES MADE THE WORKERS "SLAVES" OF THE OPERATORS.
TO KEEP THEM DIVIDED, THE MINE OWNERS DELIBERATELY EMPLOYED WORKERS OF 20 DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES... INCLUDING SLAVS, IRISH, POLES, ITALIANS, HUNGARIANS. THE OWNERS EXPECTED SO MANY RACES AND RELIGIONS WOULD DISTRUST AND HATE ONE ANOTHER, AND THEY'D NEVER FORM A COMMON UNION TO BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS. THEY WERE MISTAKEN. THE WORKERS DID UNITE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF JOHN MITCHELL, AND EVENTUALLY BUILT UP A STRONG UNION. THEY PROVED THAT WORKERS DO NOT FALL FOR THE "HATE AND DIVIDE" LINE....
JOE WORKER
157
IN THE PENNSYLVANIA COAL-FIELDS....1900
CAN'T USE YOU, WOLOCZEK. HIRED ENOUGH SLAVS. I WANT POLES OR ITALIANS NOW!
HOW ABOUT ME? MY NAME'S O'BRIEN.
I SMELL A RAT AROUND HERE!
I'M JOHN MITCHELL. I'VE COME TO ORGANIZE YOU MINERS. YOU'VE BEEN KICKED AROUND LONG ENOUGH. JOIN THE UNION!
MR. MITCHELL TALKS HORSE SENSE, FELLOWS. AND I DON'T MEAN WHITE HORSE!
JOE WORKER'S NOSE DIDN'T DECEIVE HIM. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN A MINER ASKED FOR MORE WAGES....
I CAN'T LIVE ON $22. A MONTH!
THE POLAKS AND HUNKIES'RE SATISFIED!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, O'BRIEN. HE TOLD THEM THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU!
G'WAN! D'YE THINK US IRISH'LL JOIN UP WITH A BUNCH OF POLAKS AN' HUNKIES?
YOU'RE A COMPANY SPY! YOU'RE TRYING TO STIR UP RACE HATRED SO WE WON'T FORM A UNION!
WHAT, NO PAY THIS MONTH AGAIN?
YOU OWE US MONEY!
A LOT OF US ARE GETTING "WHITE HORSE" ENVELOPES THESE DAYS. WE BETTER ORGANIZE!
THE "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" TACTICS FAILED. THE MINERS STUCK TOGETHER REGARDLESS OF RACE OR RELIGION...
WOLOCZEK!
O'BRIEN!
LEVY!
ALL GOOD UNION MEN TOGETHER!
Jack Alderman